

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a composition;

Group II, claim 16, drawn to a use of the composition; and

Group III, claims 17-20, drawn to a method of manufacturing.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-15.**

At paragraph 2 of the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner has set forth that Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept, because the corresponding technical feature of a composition containing a water-insoluble, non-surface active thermoplastic agent and a cationic polymer is not a contribution over the prior art. As evidence this fact, the Examiner has relied on U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2006/0277688 A1 or 2005/0245669 A1 or 2006/0137844 or 2006/0180289 A1.

First, the references relied on by the Examiner have not been made of record in the present application. It is requested that the Examiner list the references on a PTO/892 form. Second, the references mentioned by the Examiner have reference dates that are either after the international filing date of May 4, 2004 of the present invention or after the Swedish priority date of March 7, 2003 (It should also be noted that the foreign priority date of March 7, 2003 has been perfected in the present application, since SE 0301329-3 was in the English language). Therefore, none of the references mentioned by the Examiner set forth the state of the art at the time of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn. To the extent the Examiner persists in this restriction requirement, once an allowable generic claim is found to be allowable, Applicants request that the Examiner re-join claims 16-20 in the present application. If no generic claim is found to be allowable, Applicants reserve the right to petition the Examiner's restriction requirement and/or file a Divisional Application directed to the non-elected invention.

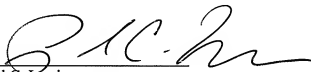
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No 43,368 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
Paul C. Lewis  
Registration No.: 43,368  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant